INTRODUCTION: The objective of this study is to explore the magnitude and pattern of electrical injury in Bangladesh.

METHODS: A national survey was conducted between January and December 2003 in Bangladesh. Nationally representative data were collected from 171,366 rural and urban households comprising a population of 819,429. The survey was conducted at a household level with a structured questionnaire.

RESULTS: The incidence of fatal and non-fatal injury was found to be 1.6 and 73.7 per 100,000 population year, respectively. Compared to females, males were found at a higher risk (RR 1.62; 95% CI 1.37–1.91) and rural people found more vulnerable compared to urban people (RR 5.97; 95% CI 4.71–7.57). The home was found as the most common place for injury occurrence, with more than 50% of injury taking place at home. The household source of electricity was found as the most common source of electrical injury. Lightning was also found as a major source for electrical injury which constituted more than 25% of the injuries caused by electrical current. More than 80% of electrical injuries occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

CONCLUSIONS: Electrical injury is an emerging cause of mortality and morbidity in both urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. Males and rural people were the more vulnerable group for electric-